Special Purpose Vehicle of IOC and OIL

263. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Indian oil Corporation (IOC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has recently been floated for overseas acquisitions and exploration which is scouting for new oil and gas blocks in Indonesia;

(b) if so, the extent of investment proposed to be made by the said SPV and the nature of agreement so far entered into with the Government agencies of Indonesia; and

(c) the percentage of the total crude production to be made by the consortium that would be imported in India and the conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. No Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been formed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) for acquisition and exploration of oil and gas blocks in Indonesia.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Agreement with Brazil

264. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into a pact with Brazil to import a technology for blending ethanol with petrol; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in pursuance of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Government had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federative Republic of Brazil on April 8, 2002 for enhancing their cooperation in the field of ethanol blending with transport fuels, on the basis of equality and mutual advantage, and identify desirable areas of cooperation, taking into account the experience gained by subject experts and the possibilities available.

(b) Subsequent to entering into the MoU, a Brazilian delegation led by Secretary for Development of Production, Ministry for Development, Industry and Foreign Commerce visited India during August 12-14, 2002. During this visit, the Brazilian delegation held discussions with the Government and other agencies on various aspects relating to blending of ethanol in petrol. Representatives of Oil Companies; State Governments of Maharashtra and U.P.; FICCI; Sugar, Distillery and Automotive Industries also participated in these discussions.

Petrol Pumps to Kargil war widows

265. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six years after Kargil War, the nation has not been able to deliver the promised petrol pumps and LPG dealerships to widows of personnel who laid down their lives to win back the heights along the Line of Control (LoC) from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have made investigations in this matter; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to give the promised relief to Kargil war widows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Government had introduced a special scheme in 1999 for the allotment of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) and LPG distributorships to the widows/next of kin of the defence personnel killed in action in "Operation Vijay" (Kargil). under the scheme, the Director General Resettlement (DGR) under Ministry of Defence, Government of India, recommends to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG) the names of the beneficiaries, and the locations where they would like to set up the dealerships/ distributorships. Allotments are approved by the Government on the recommendation of the oil industry, after undertaking feasibility studies of the locations opted for by those beneficiaries.

Out of 475 effective recommendations received from the DGR, as on 10.10.2005, 22 persons were not interested in taking up dealerships/